

THE MEDINA SENTINEL

VOL. XX

THE MEDINA SENTINEL, FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 1915.

No. 35.

BREAKS NOSE TRUSTED EMPLOYEE

Sheriff Gehman answered a hectic call from the club house grounds at Chippewa Lake Monday afternoon at 5 o'clock, beseeching that he come there at once and take into custody a man who had just made a vicious assault accompanied by a threat to kill. Within 30 minutes the sheriff and deputy Pelton were on the scene of action, where they were met by E. W. Hommel, whose facial disfigurements bore unquestionable evidence of his having been attacked. There was a lump on his forehead that made him resemble a unicorn and a hole in his underlip that would suggest that he had fallen 500 feet and caught on a meat hook. He shook as if palsied and it was with effort that he told officers his version of what had happened. He stated that he had been assaulted maliciously by his "partner", who was drunk and had been so for the past nine weeks. That at that very moment he was at his own apartments with his wife, whose life doubtless was in danger.

The sheriff and deputy, armed to the teeth, made haste to capture the alleged outlaw. Upon entering the cottage they found their man, who instead of being drunk was just the reverse. He was Mr. Wm. H. Eberle, engaged by the A. I. Root Co. to install a complete cost system in their concern. Hommel, instead of being Mr. Eberle's "partner," was his employee. The officers upon entering the Eberle home were met by the wife and maid. The wife, a voluptuous blond, became hysterical and it was some moments before Sheriff Gehman coaxed her into quietude.

Hommel expressed fear of coming to Medina in the same conveyance with Eberle for the purpose of swearing out a warrant, so made the trip by rail with the sheriff. On the way back by auto, Eberle gave the Sentinel editor the following version of what happened and the causes which led up to it. Said Eberle:

"When I came to Medina for the Root Co. I brought with me Hommel, who is an exceptional man mentally and when I knew would do good work. At first he boarded in Medina, but I liked him so well that I invited him to live at the lake with me and my wife. My duties frequently call me to my office in Cleveland, which afforded Hommel a golden opportunity for treachery, if he were so inclined. I have since found out that he was so inclined.

"My suspicions were first aroused when in settling accounts at the stores I discovered that he had made frequent purchases of candy and had it charged to my account.

"Monday, the day of the trouble, I arrived home somewhat earlier than I had intended and learned that my wife and Hommel had been to town together and that my wife had incurred an enormous bill of expense for clothing against me. I promptly took Hommel to task for his conduct, whereupon he became insolent and squared himself apparently in anticipation of trouble. It was then that I administered what he was expecting."

Upon arriving at Medina Hommel swore out a warrant, but the "threat to kill" element was lacking. Eberle was arraigned before Justice Van Deusen and entered a plea of not guilty. He was bound over to the grand jury under a bond of \$100, which was furnished by Mr. Blake Hendrickson. Eberle manifested no signs of having been drinking at the time of his arrest, nor of being a habitual booze-boister.

Tuesday morning Sheriff Gehman was informed by Eberle that upon arriving home from Medina following the hearing he discovered that his wife, little son, Hommel, and the maid had all left for Cleveland.

To Prosecutor Underwood Hommel insisted that he was a partner of Eberle and not an employee, and asked that legal steps be taken to prevent Eberle from collecting monies due them, including several hundred dollars, according to Hommel, from the A. I. Root Co. An officer of the latter company assured Mr. Underwood that no settlement would be made with the men until their entanglement was straightened out in a legal way.

Hommel denies that he had been unduly attentive to Mrs. Eberle, and attributes the assault to an ultra vivid imagination possessed by Eberle, who, Hommel says, is of an insanely jealous disposition.

According to Eberle, and corroborated by Hommel, the former at one time held the chair of first violinist in the Pittsburgh symphony orchestra. While at the home of Sheriff Gehman Monday evening Eberle picked up the

CLARK-EVES MARRIAGE

Mr. Fred Clark is being congratulated by his many friends upon his marriage last Friday afternoon to Mrs. Grace Eves of Cleveland. Mr. Clark's marriage was likewise considerably of a surprise to his friends. Nevertheless the best wishes of the latter go with the bride and groom and the Sentinel takes this opportunity of extending its congratulations. Mr. and Mrs. Clarke reside at 331 West Washington street.

ELIZABETH HIRSCH CALLED BY DEATH

Sunday evening, April 25, at nine o'clock, Mrs. Elizabeth Hirsch responded to the last summons at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Henry Griesinger, 124 West Union street. While in no sense an invalid, Mrs. Hirsch, probably from the natural infirmities of her age, had been in gradual failing health for some time. She did not take to her bed, however, until a day or so preceding her death, the direct cause of which was a weakened condition of her heart.

The deceased was born in Berlin, Somerset county, Pa., in June, 1845. She was married in 1864 to Benjamin Hirsch, also of Berlin, where they resided for many years. From Berlin they removed to Akron, and later to Cleveland. From the latter city the family went to Lafayette, this county, and still later to Medina. The husband died about nine years ago. One child, a daughter, blessed the union, and was the mother of Mrs. Henry Griesinger. The former died years ago and the grandmother became responsible for the rearing of the granddaughter. Since the death of her husband, Mrs. Hirsch has made her home in Medina with Mr. and Mrs. Griesinger.

Funeral services were held Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the home, Rev. F. W. Hass of the M. E. church officiating. Burial was made in Spring Grove cemetery.

FIRST FARM HIGH SCHOOL IN COUNTRY

It looks as if one of the oldest and most picturesque institutions of learning in the state will be taken over and made an adjunct of Ohio State university as a preparatory agricultural school.

This institution is the quaint academy established early in the history of the state at New Lyme in Ashtabula county. In early times it flourished as a private academy, and boasted once upon a time of having nearly 300 students. For a long period the New Lyme institution was unique as a training school for teachers. Afterward it met reverses, and today is operated as a village high school.

Now it is proposed by the Platt bill that the school be taken over by the state. The state can have the 20 acres of ground on which the buildings are located without cost if it will make the institution a state-aided one.

The house favors the proposal and the senate will probably follow suit. In this case Ohio will have the first agricultural high school in the country.

FIFTIETH CONVENTION OF COUNTY S. S.

The 50th convention of the Medina County Sunday School association will occur at Medina this year on May 14 and 15. D. W. West, associate secretary for the Young Men's Christian A. secured as song leader. Mrs. Phoebe A. Curtis of the state Sunday school supply house, Cleveland; Dr. W. B. Slutz, district superintendent of Wooster; T. B. Lanham of the state Young Men's Christian association office; Rev. D. C. Yoder, general secretary of the Cuyahoga County Sunday school association and A. I. Root of Medina, constitute the list of special speakers.

Preparations are being made for the greatest and best convention in the history of the association. All sessions will be held at the Baptist church, beginning Friday afternoon, May 14, and closing the following afternoon.

former's violin and notwithstanding the bruised condition of his left hand, played, it is said with the consummate skill of an artist.

THE COUNTY SPELLING CONTEST CHAMPIONS



MISS TREVA HULL
Litchfield Grade School



MR. FLOYD GIFT
Sharon High School

JAMES MASI FREED IN MURDER TRIAL

For the slaying of his half brother, Napoleon Masi, on the afternoon of Sunday, Feb. 15, at the home of his brother-in-law, Antonio Wing, in Seville, James Masi was placed on trial Monday morning on an indictment of second degree murder.

Nearly all the forenoon was taken up in the impaneling of the jury, many being excused for various reasons. Following are the names of the jurymen as finally accepted: Marion Walker, Guilford; Henry Bennader, Lodi; Robert Steingass, Liverpool; D. W. Brubaker, Homer; A. F. Lutz, Medina; Ross L. Forney, Homer; W. G. Durling; Henry Hoeffer, Liverpool; Terry Abbs, Sharon; Edward Hottenstein, Westfield; J. C. Beedle, Medina; H. E. Ayland, Medina.

At 11 o'clock the jurymen, accompanied by both the attorneys for the state and defense, were taken to Seville for the purpose of visiting the scene of the shooting and familiarizing themselves with the plan of the house and its surroundings.

The first witness called when court convened in the afternoon was Dr. Hard of Seville, who attended Napoleon Masi following the shooting, and who accompanied him to the Wooster hospital, where an operation was performed in the hope of saving the injured man's life. Dr. Hard was called principally for his testimony regarding the nature of the wound and the course taken by the bullet. Shorn of technical terms the doctor's statement was that the bullet entered the body nearly at the center of the abdomen, passing on a straight line slightly out and down and coming out about two inches to the left of the spinal column. The bullet dropped to the floor when the injured man's clothing was removed.

Coroner Brintnall of Valley City was the second witness to testify. His testimony was substantially the same as the former witness as to the nature of the wound and the course taken by the bullet. Both witnesses testified that the flesh around the wound was burned and powder-marked.

Following Dr. Brintnall, Antonio Wing was called to the stand by the state.

Wing is a brother-in-law of the defendant. His testimony consisted of a recital of what took place during the hours preceding the shooting and substantially was the same as published in the Sentinel of that week. While he was questioned and cross-questioned, for the most part he was permitted to relate in his own way what took place. He stated that at about noon the defendant entered his (Wing's) home. He found his brother Napoleon there and noted that Mrs. Wing was crying. Defendant queried her as to the cause, whereupon Napoleon answered that he had slapped her. The former rebuked his brother for the assault upon the sister and angry words followed. Defendant then, according to Wing, invited the latter over to his (the defendant's) home for a drink. He went. Later, Napoleon appeared and a heated argument ensued again about the slapping by Napoleon of his sister, Mrs. Wing. Here the testimony sought by the attorneys was concerning the location of different articles of furniture in the rooms of the Masi home, the subjects of the various pictures suspended upon the walls, the approximate temperature of a chair seat upon which defendant had been seated and numerous other questions which apparently had no more significance with regard

to the guilt or innocence of the defendant than to have inquired of witness his opinion of dog meat as a vegetable diet, so far as it has a tendency to produce emotional insanity on the Fiji Islanders. Witness testified that the two Masi brothers had finally elinched and that both were then grasped by members of the families and held apart. That it was while being thus held defendant reached in his pocket, withdrew a revolver and, forcing his arm up and under the arm of the one who was holding him, fired the shot that caused his brother's death.

Mrs. Wing, who followed her husband on the witness stand, testified to practically the same story.

Following Mrs. Wing on Tuesday was the defendant, James Masi. While questioned considerably by the state, he was permitted to tell his story rather connectedly from the beginning of the trouble to the moment that the fatal shot was fired. Defendant's story differed essentially from that of the two previous witnesses in that he claims the shooting was accidental, regardless of the fact that he had been and was being assaulted by his brother at the time the revolver exploded. He testified that he had armed himself a few moments before, fearing for his life, and that notwithstanding a vicious assault upon him by his brother after he was thus armed, drew the gun, and instead of shooting, had defended himself by striking his brother on the head with the butt of the weapon. That it was when drawing the revolver for the second time and in the same manner that it was accidentally discharged. Defendant was severely cross-examined.

The first witness called Wednesday morning was ex-Sheriff A. L. Young for the defense. His testimony principally had to do with the identification of the revolver and concerning the results of some tests which he had made in shooting into a bag of rags. The experiment was to ascertain how close one could shoot at one another and leave powder marks or burn the flesh.

Mrs. Masi, wife of defendant was then called, but questioned for only a few moments concerning who were present at the time of the shooting, and to substantiate the testimony of her husband. Mr. Young was called to answer a few questions which were of no particular importance.

Following Young came George Simmerman for the state. He stated that he had given first aid to the bruises and scratches on defendant upon the latter's arrival at the jail immediately following the arrest. The testimony of this witness was also of minor importance.

Dr. Strong, also subpoenaed by the state, followed Simmerman. He told of having dressed the wounds on defendant's head. A few statements followed concerning the number of skins with which the human anatomy is endowed. Marshal Ed. Miller of Seville was called. Miller's testimony likewise was mainly valueless. The marshal related the finding of a fork on the ground near the front door and testified to there having been a goodly number of persons on the premises soon after the tragedy, curiously inclined.

John Decker, section boss, also of Seville, was then called to the stand by the state to testify as to the char-

(Continued on page 5.)

COPLEY WINS FROM SHARON

Copley High won its first played game of the present season from Sharon high Friday by the one-sided score of 16 to 2.

Bunn pitched first class ball for Copley, striking out 13 men and allowing but two hits. A fumble in left field was all that kept him from registering a shut out.

The Copley team to a man performed nobly with the willow, hitting the Sharon pitcher hard at all times.

COMMISSIONERS ASK INJUNCTION ON ERIE

The chief item of importance at the regular weekly meeting of the county commissioners Monday was the securing of a restraining order from common pleas court enjoining the Erie railroad from raising its tracks in Burbank village. The notice was delivered by Sheriff Gehman Tuesday on the company's agent at Wadsworth. Territorial conditions make the serving of this notice rather peculiar. The larger part of Burbank township lies in Wayne county, but the part of the village wherein the Erie tracks run is in Medina county. The company's office at Burbank is situated over the line in Wayne county, thus legal notice cannot be served on the company from this county at that station.

The next transaction of interest was the allowing damages in the sum of \$100 to Don Young of Wadsworth, who proved to the satisfaction of the commissioners that his land interests had been molested when a small stream running east of his premises on Broad street, Wadsworth village, had been diverted from its regular course and caused to flow on his lot. The course had been diverted some time ago in the construction of a culvert near that point.

It will be of interest to our readers to learn that the county ceased renting the empty rooms on South Court street on April 15, and the following day began paying the same amount, \$10 a month, toward the rooms now being occupied by Prosecutor Underwood in the Reinhardt block.

The road commissioners Saturday awarded a contract for one and one-half miles of water-bound macadam road to a contracting firm from Elyria. The strip of road begins at the end of the two-mile strip built by the state running north.

Kennedy & Warner also landed the contract for 2140 feet of concrete road beginning at the west end of the West Center York road.

Contracts for two strips of road in Harrisville township—1580 feet on the Lodi-West Salem road and one half mile on the Lodi-Seville road, were let by Harrisville trustees Monday to Rice & Son of Shelby.

BOARD DEMANDS RE-EXAMINATION

The Medina Board of Education this week asked a re-examination of all those children who had not yet been vaccinated and who were in school on temporary ill health certificates granted to a few of the children when the vaccination order went into effect.

As we understand it these certificates were granted to permit recovery from numerous ailments and to relieve parents who were fearful that with sickness some bad effects might be experienced as a result of the vaccination.

As the sickness seemed to have vanished and all the children were back in school the board with the consent of the physicians in charge, asked a reexamination and that it should be represented by an additional disinterested physician. It is known that several children who have failed to convince the physician of any sickness, and who declined to be vaccinated, were dismissed from school.

The policy of the school board seems plain, to reexamine all children concerning whom there is doubt, and if well, to insist upon vaccination, otherwise to dismiss them from school. This seems fair to those who have been vaccinated and in following out the policy of playing no favorites the board's action will meet with approval.

Local sporting men are still discussing the one-round fistie encounter between Ford Cannon and Howard Ryan on the night of Tuesday, April 20, resulting in the former being knocked out in the beginning of the first round. About 30 fans witnessed the fight, which took place near the home of the vanquished.

COUNCIL HOLDS UP LIGHT FRANCHISE

Council met last Thursday evening and while the variety of subjects under consideration was large, little or nothing was definitely decided.

The matter of aiding the Ladies' Improvement Association on the cleanup day came up and council decided on a plan whereby the town should be divided into sections of one block each; a lady to be assigned to solicit funds from each resident, council to make up any reasonable deficit should there be one. Health Officer Sedgewick was decided upon as the proper man to collect rubbish, as no dumping violations would be allowed. One offender of this ordinance was threatened with arrest unless he immediately removed a quantity that had been misplaced.

The matter of signs for the streets was left in abeyance, no one seeming to know the exact kind of signs wanted.

Two complaints of bad sidewalks in the village was tabled as the offender had agreed to rectify same.

The matter of garbage disposal was a long drawn out affair; it being suggested that some person with a good team might make a profitable business by collecting garbage from each family once a week and for compensation to collect a nominal sum of twenty-five cents a month from each family. This council referred to Health Officer Sedgewick, with the suggestion that he endeavor to find some man to take the job.

Several other unimportant measures were taken up, one to repair two catchalls that have been broken and inspect the Harding farm with the idea of digging a ditch thru the lands large enough to carry all the overflow. At present Mr. Harding is forced to keep his cows out of the pasture.

The main topic of the evening was an electric light franchise. F. O. Phillips was present and prayed for a twenty-year franchise, a duplicate of the present one, which expires in December, 1916. Mr. Snyder of the Cleveland & Southwestern was present and asked council until its next meeting, May 11, to decide on and gather estimates as to whether his company could and if so at what rate they may supply current to Medina. It was suggested that the maximum rate that could be charged consumers should be a part of the new franchise, which Mr. Snyder agreed to do. Mr. Phillips suggested that the Utilities Commission of Ohio would not allow an exorbitant rate, to which a reply was offered asking what private citizen would hire a lawyer and submit a complaint to the commission for an overcharge of say 25 or 30 cents a month.

One councilman suggested that Mr. Phillips ask for a ten-year franchise instead of a twenty-year one. To this an offer was made to inject in the franchise the right to free the consumers from the obnoxious charge of 25 cents a month meter rent. This is a feature that council may or may not see fit to allow in granting a franchise. Users are paying a rental of 25 cents a month at the present time simply and solely because council in granting the old franchise did not specify that no rental should be charged.

The contract for street lighting which does not expire for nearly four years, was brought up and a change in the present mode was advanced. When asked if the Electric Light & Power Co. would allow two extra circuits of 6 lights each, to be placed around town and at no extra expense, providing all street lights, except those on the square, were turned out at 1 a. m., Mr. Phillips stated that he thought it could be arranged, providing he was granted a renewal of franchise. He also said that he would in the course of two years transform the present obsolete system of lighting into alternating current, although he would not agree to put same as a condition in the franchise. This matter was finally held over until the next meeting, May 11.

The Sentinel has no ax to grind in the matter of franchise, but believes council should work for the benefit of the public. It is a matter of speculation as to whether the Cleveland & Southwestern could satisfactorily supply the public, but it is a fact that with modern machinery the Electric Light & Power Co., can supply the public at a much lower cost than now and derive a handsome profit. What is needed is a readjustment of rates based upon the amount of current used.

The representative of the C. S. & W. reiterated his statement that the West Liberty track would be improved this summer, giving his inability to secure special rails, as his reason in delaying action. It is probable that a cement foundation will be laid and the length of the track repaired.

—The two botany classes of the high school were taken to Whipp's Ledges Wednesday.